

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN OCTOBER 2005

Domestic primary aluminum production in October was 207,483 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production rate was 6,693 t, 1% higher than that of the previous month but 2% below the rate for October 2004. The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased to 91.38 cents per pound in October from 86.45 cents per pound in September, according to Platts Metals Week. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum used beverage cans (UBCs) increased during October. The price range began the month at 59–60 cents per pound. On October 11, the price range increased to 61–63 cents per pound. On October 18, the price range increased a penny to 62–64 cents per pound and remained at this level through the end of the month.

U.S. Trade

Total imports for consumption of aluminum for the first 3 quarters of 2005 increased 18% compared with those for the same period in 2004. Imports of metal and alloys and of semifabricated materials increased 18% and 33%, respectively; imports of scrap, however, decreased 10% compared with those for the same period in 2004. Canada remained the leading

shipper of materials to the United States, supplying one-half of total U.S. imports in the first 9 months of the year, followed by Russia with 18%.

Total aluminum exports in the first 3 quarters of 2005 increased 31% compared with those for the first 9 months of 2004. Exports were higher in all three categories detailed in table 7 and were led by a 67% increase in exports of aluminum scrap. Exports of metal and alloys increased 14%, and exports of semifabricated material increased 10% compared with those for the same period in 2004. Canada, China, and Mexico were the major recipients of U.S. aluminum materials, accounting for almost 80% of total U.S. exports in the first 9 months of 2005.

Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased in November to 96.31 cents per pound. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs also increased during November. On November 1, the price range increased to 63–65 cents per pound, and on November 8, it increased another penny to 64–66 cents per pound. On November 22, the price range increased to 66–68 cents per pound and remained at this level through the end of the month.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY¹

(Thousand metric tons)

| Period | Primary production | Secondary recovery ² | | | Imports for consumption | | | Total new supply ³ | Total stocks, end of period ⁴ |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|-------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|---|
| | | New | Old | Total | Metals and alloys, crude | Plates, sheets, bars, etc. | Total | | |
| 2004 | 2,516 | 1,870 | 1,160 | 3,030 | 3,250 | 938 | 4,180 | 9,730 ^r | 1,470 |
| 2004: | | | | | | | | | |
| October | 211 | 159 | 106 | 265 | 286 | 84 | 370 | 847 | 1,390 |
| November | 207 | 149 | 103 | 252 | 272 | 84 | 356 | 815 | 1,420 |
| December | 211 | 138 | 94 | 231 | 294 | 82 | 377 | 819 | 1,470 |
| January-October | 2,099 | 1,540 | 1,000 | 2,540 | 2,680 | 771 | 3,450 | 8,090 | 1,390 |
| 2005: | | | | | | | | | |
| January | 209 | 163 | 95 | 258 | 334 | 90 | 425 | 892 | 1,510 |
| February | 191 | 157 | 91 | 248 | 289 | 97 | 386 | 825 | 1,450 |
| March | 214 | 171 | 96 | 267 | 262 | 105 | 367 | 847 | 1,480 |
| April | 211 | 162 | 95 | 257 | 372 | 104 | 476 | 943 | 1,500 |
| May | 214 | 159 | 98 | 257 | 372 | 104 | 476 | 947 | 1,520 |
| June | 206 | 153 | 96 | 249 | 324 | 107 | 431 | 886 | 1,500 |
| July | 210 | 170 | 96 | 267 | 324 | 104 | 428 | 904 | 1,550 |
| August | 208 | 167 | 96 | 262 | 264 | 110 | 374 | 845 | 1,550 |
| September | 199 | 157 ^r | 91 ^r | 248 | 282 | 97 | 379 | 826 | 1,590 |
| October | 207 | 151 | 95 | 246 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| January-October | 2,069 | 1,610 | 949 | 2,560 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |

^rRevised. NA Not available.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

²Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

³Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

⁴Inventory levels reflect total for both U.S. and Canadian producers; data from the Aluminum Association Inc.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM
PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP¹

(Thousand metric tons)

| Period | Secondary smelters | | Integrated aluminum companies | | Independent mill fabricators | | Foundries | | Other consumers | | Total | |
|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| | Con-sump-tion | Metal recovery | Con-sump-tion | Metal recovery | Con-sump-tion | Metal recovery | Con-sump-tion | Metal recovery | Con-sump-tion | Metal recovery | Con-sump-tion | Metal recovery |
| 2004 | 1,800 | 1,330 | 754 | 668 | 994 | 929 | 101 | 90 | 9 | 8 | 3,650 | 3,030 |
| 2004: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| October | 148 | 110 | 64 | 56 | 97 | 91 | 9 | 8 | (2) | (2) | 319 | 265 |
| November | 145 | 107 | 64 | 56 | 87 | 81 | 9 | 8 | (2) | (2) | 305 | 252 |
| December | 132 | 97 | 61 | 54 | 77 | 72 | 8 | 7 | (2) | (2) | 279 | 231 |
| January-October | 1,400 | 1,040 | 630 | 558 | 917 | 856 | 93 | 83 | 4 | 4 | 3,050 | 2,540 |
| 2005: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| January | 147 | 106 | 64 | 57 | 93 | 87 | 9 | 8 | (2) | (2) | 313 | 258 |
| February | 146 | 105 | 63 | 56 | 84 | 79 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 301 | 248 |
| March | 150 | 108 | 67 | 60 | 97 | 91 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 323 | 267 |
| April | 146 | 106 | 66 | 59 | 90 | 84 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 311 | 257 |
| May | 151 | 109 | 69 | 61 | 85 | 80 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 313 | 257 |
| June | 138 | 103 | 67 | 60 | 84 | 79 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 299 | 249 |
| July | 141 | 102 | 92 | 83 | 79 | 74 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 321 | 267 |
| August | 151 | 109 | 77 | 69 | 82 | 77 | 8 | 7 | (2) | (2) | 319 | 262 |
| September | 148 | 107 | 65 | 58 | 80 | 75 | 8 | 7 | (2) | (2) | 302 | 248 |
| October | 154 | 112 | 55 | 49 | 83 | 78 | 8 | 7 | (2) | (2) | 302 | 246 |
| January-October | 1,470 | 1,070 | 685 | 612 | 857 | 804 | 82 | 72 | 5 | 5 | 3,100 | 2,560 |

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than ½ unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN OCTOBER 2005¹

(Metric tons)

| | Consumption | | Calculated metallic recovery | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Tabulated reports | Estimated full coverage | Tabulated reports | Estimated full coverage |
| Secondary smelters | 129,000 | 154,000 | 93,200 | 112,000 |
| Integrated aluminum companies | 55,400 | 55,400 | 48,700 | 48,700 |
| Independent mill fabricators | 69,300 | 83,100 | 64,700 | 77,700 |
| Foundries | 7,050 | 8,460 | 6,240 | 7,480 |
| Other consumers | 355 | 426 | 355 | 426 |
| Total | 261,000 | 302,000 | 213,000 | 246,000 |

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN OCTOBER 2005¹

(Metric tons)

| | October | | | | January-October ² | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Stocks, opening | Net receipts ³ | Melted or consumed | Stocks, closing | Net receipts ³ | Melted or consumed |
| New scrap: | | | | | | |
| Extrusions | 24,300 | 55,300 | 54,900 | 24,700 | 622,000 | 625,000 |
| Can stock clippings | 838 | 18,500 | 18,500 | 820 | 255,000 | 257,000 |
| Other wrought sheet/clippings | 8,080 | 27,200 | 27,400 | 7,980 | 238,000 | 239,000 |
| Castings | 1,470 ^r | 9,350 | 9,240 | 1,580 | 82,300 | 82,000 |
| Borings and turnings | 7,990 ^r | 12,900 | 13,000 | 7,890 | 134,000 | 130,000 |
| Dross and skimmings | 4,730 ^r | 39,200 | 39,600 | 4,350 | 379,000 | 379,000 |
| Total new scrap | 47,500 ^r | 163,000 | 163,000 | 47,400 | 1,710,000 | 1,710,000 |
| Old scrap: | | | | | | |
| Used castings | 5,460 ^r | 16,400 | 16,600 | 5,240 | 118,000 | 117,000 |
| Used extrusions | 137 | 295 | 295 | 137 | 2,950 | 2,950 |
| Used cans (shredded, loose, baled) | 2,110 ^r | 59,900 | 60,100 | 1,920 | 616,000 | 619,000 |
| Other wrought products | 5,690 | 8,230 | 8,230 | 5,690 | 135,000 | 135,000 |
| Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder) | 3,400 | 11,700 | 12,000 | 3,070 | 108,000 | 108,000 |
| Total old scrap | 16,800 ^r | 96,500 | 97,200 | 16,100 | 980,000 | 981,000 |
| Sweated pig | 289 | 819 | 818 | 290 | 7,280 | 7,580 |
| Total all classes | 64,500 ^r | 260,000 | 261,000 | 63,700 | 2,700,000 | 2,700,000 |

^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes revised data from previous month(s).

³Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2005^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

| | October | | | | January-October ³ | |
|--|---------------------|------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| | Stocks, opening | Production | Net shipments | Stocks, closing | Production | Net shipments |
| Die-cast alloys: | | | | | | |
| 13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.) | 5,630 [†] | 1,980 | 2,000 | 5,620 | 16,500 | 13,800 |
| 380 and variations | 2,220 [†] | 18,200 | 17,400 | 3,050 | 169,000 | 170,000 |
| Sand and permanent mold: | | | | | | |
| 95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.) | 985 [†] | 1,830 | 1,860 | 958 | 18,500 | 18,600 |
| No. 319 and variations | 2,620 [†] | 6,890 | 6,560 | 2,950 | 65,800 | 65,300 |
| F-132 alloy and variations | 779 [†] | 2,300 | 2,310 | 773 | 18,900 | 18,900 |
| Al-Zn alloys | 124 [†] | 151 | 161 | 114 | 1,650 | 1,670 |
| Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu) | 39 | 46 | 46 | 39 | 458 | 458 |
| Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.) | 45 | 325 | 325 | 45 | 3,250 | 3,250 |
| Other ⁴ | 5,150 [†] | 5,140 | 4,240 | 6,050 | 59,800 | 60,100 |
| Wrought alloys: | | | | | | |
| Extrusion billets | 10,800 | 24,600 | 24,500 | 10,900 | 246,000 | 246,000 |
| Total all alloys | 28,400 [†] | 61,500 | 59,300 | 30,500 | 600,000 | 598,000 |
| Less: | | | | | | |
| Primary aluminum consumed | XX | 10,900 | XX | XX | 123,000 | XX |
| Primary silicon consumed | XX | 2,360 | XX | XX | 22,400 | XX |
| Other alloying ingredients consumed | XX | 490 | XX | XX | 6,720 | XX |
| Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵ | XX | 47,700 | XX | XX | 447,000 | XX |

[†]Revised. XX Not applicable.

¹Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Includes revised data from previous months.

⁴Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

⁵No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN SEPTEMBER 2005¹

(Metric tons)

| Country | Metals and alloys, crude | | Plates, sheets, bars, etc. | | Scrap | | Total | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| | September | January-September | September | January-September | September | January-September | September | January-September |
| Argentina | 5,400 | 48,400 | 7 | 2,970 | -- | -- | 5,410 | 51,400 |
| Australia | 4,990 | 51,100 | 7 | 105 | -- | 1,210 | 4,990 | 52,400 |
| Bahrain | 5,350 | 9,760 | 1,240 | 11,600 | -- | -- | 6,590 | 21,400 |
| Belgium | -- | 18 | 1,120 | 10,500 | -- | 28 | 1,120 | 10,600 |
| Brazil | 7,900 | 138,000 | 2,960 | 27,200 | -- | 126 | 10,900 | 166,000 |
| Canada | 195,000 | 1,440,000 | 43,500 | 391,000 | 26,100 | 230,000 | 265,000 | 2,060,000 |
| China | 4,490 | 61,800 | 10,900 | 91,700 | -- | 126 | 15,400 | 154,000 |
| France | 58 | 655 | 263 | 5,300 | (2) | 55 | 321 | 6,010 |
| Germany | 225 | 1,820 | 9,280 | 86,600 | 35 | 274 | 9,540 | 88,700 |
| Hungary | -- | -- | 233 | 3,150 | -- | -- | 233 | 3,150 |
| Italy | 100 | 610 | 191 | 2,170 | -- | -- | 292 | 2,790 |
| Japan | 46 | 478 | 1,360 | 14,700 | 39 | 398 | 1,440 | 15,600 |
| Korea, Republic of | 12 | 75 | 209 | 2,250 | -- | -- | 221 | 2,330 |
| Mexico | -- | -- | 1,930 | 16,800 | 8,420 | 82,500 | 10,300 | 99,400 |
| Netherlands | -- | 331 | 131 | 2,120 | -- | -- | 131 | 2,450 |
| Norway | -- | 4,060 | (2) | 106 | -- | 2 | (2) | 4,170 |
| Russia | 21,000 | 682,000 | 4,310 | 46,600 | 801 | 5,330 | 26,200 | 734,000 |
| South Africa | -- | 59,400 | 5,300 | 38,000 | -- | -- | 5,300 | 97,400 |
| Spain | 4 | 36 | 221 | 2,570 | -- | 106 | 225 | 2,710 |
| Sweden | -- | 1,310 | 335 | 2,780 | -- | -- | 335 | 4,080 |
| Switzerland | 36 | 702 | 535 | 3,180 | -- | -- | 571 | 3,880 |
| Tajikistan | -- | 96,700 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 96,700 |
| United Arab Emirates | 9,000 | 54,800 | 107 | 279 | 157 | 666 | 9,260 | 55,800 |
| United Kingdom | 17 | 20,100 | 415 | 5,720 | 96 | 1,680 | 528 | 27,500 |
| Venezuela | 22,000 | 112,000 | 726 | 9,190 | 255 | 8,070 | 23,000 | 130,000 |
| Other | 6,080 | 36,200 | 11,800 | 141,000 | 3,610 | 36,400 | 21,500 | 213,000 |
| Total | 282,000 | 2,820,000 | 97,100 | 917,000 | 39,500 | 367,000 | 419,000 | 4,110,000 |

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN SEPTEMBER 2005¹

(Metric tons)

| Country or territory | Metals and alloys, crude | | Plates, sheets, bars, etc. | | Scrap | | Total | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| | September | January-September | September | January-September | September | January-September | September | January-September |
| Australia | 72 | 421 | 140 | 1,220 | -- | 23 | 211 | 1,660 |
| Azerbaijan | -- | -- | -- | 2 | -- | -- | -- | 2 |
| Belgium | 5 | 588 | 825 | 5,980 | -- | 214 | 830 | 6,780 |
| Brazil | 12 | 188 | 279 | 6,420 | 65 | 1,500 | 356 | 8,110 |
| Canada | 10,600 | 95,200 | 40,400 | 372,000 | 10,600 | 111,000 | 61,600 | 578,000 |
| China | 92 | 378 | 2,790 | 29,500 | 56,700 | 406,000 | 59,600 | 436,000 |
| Czech Republic | -- | -- | 9 | 237 | -- | -- | 9 | 237 |
| Dominican Republic | 4 | 14 | 53 | 353 | -- | -- | 57 | 367 |
| France | 17 | 838 | 830 | 6,360 | 2 | 48 | 849 | 7,250 |
| Germany | 51 | 678 | 778 | 6,380 | 17 | 273 | 846 | 7,330 |
| Hong Kong | 1 | 207 | 610 | 5,270 | 888 | 7,990 | 1,500 | 13,500 |
| India | 14 | 158 | 59 | 392 | 772 | 7,520 | 846 | 8,070 |
| Israel | 21 | 549 | 212 | 2,160 | -- | -- | 233 | 2,710 |
| Italy | -- | 175 | 332 | 2,280 | -- | -- | 332 | 2,460 |
| Japan | 113 | 3,500 | 812 | 7,350 | 3,100 | 24,900 | 4,030 | 35,700 |
| Korea, Republic of | 67 | 828 | 589 | 10,000 | 8,960 | 95,500 | 9,620 | 106,000 |
| Malaysia | 1 | 24 | 205 | 5,370 | 20 | 107 | 227 | 5,500 |
| Mexico | 15,900 | 137,000 | 25,100 | 167,000 | 7,060 | 50,700 | 48,000 | 355,000 |
| Netherlands | 6 | 110 | 41 | 408 | 2 | 39 | 49 | 558 |
| Russia | 31 | 59 | (2) | 37 | 14 | 26 | 45 | 122 |
| Saudi Arabia | -- | 8 | 1,750 | 22,800 | -- | -- | 1,750 | 22,800 |
| Singapore | (2) | 319 | 113 | 1,800 | -- | 552 | 113 | 2,670 |
| Spain | 4 | 58 | 105 | 845 | -- | 196 | 109 | 1,100 |
| Sweden | -- | 9 | 24 | 307 | -- | -- | 24 | 316 |
| Taiwan | 38 | 244 | 391 | 6,740 | 3,410 | 38,100 | 3,840 | 45,100 |
| Thailand | 56 | 342 | 663 | 5,840 | 251 | 4,740 | 969 | 10,900 |
| Ukraine | -- | -- | (2) | 1 | -- | -- | (2) | 1 |
| United Kingdom | 6 | 263 | 1,040 | 12,000 | 54 | 225 | 1,100 | 12,500 |
| Venezuela | -- | 12 | 103 | 1,360 | -- | 21 | 103 | 1,390 |
| Other | 183 | 3,400 | 3,350 | 28,200 | 1,690 | 30,600 | 5,220 | 62,200 |
| Total | 27,200 | 246,000 | 81,700 | 708,000 | 93,700 | 781,000 | 203,000 | 1,740,000 |

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.